A Check-list of the Memecylon Species (Melastomataceae) in Borneo, Java, Malaya and Sumatra

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Abstract

An annotated list of 43 species of *Memecylon* is presented. It is based on recent revisions from Malaya and Borneo by J. F. Maxwell and K. Bremer, respectively. All *Memecylon* taxa (except *M. oligoneurum* with its synonyms, which has been transferred to the genus *Lijndenia*) described or reported from the four areas are referable to the 43 species listed.

Introduction

Memecylon is a palaeotropical genus of small to medium-sized trees or shrubs, commonly occurring in tropical evergreen forests. The genus has recently been revised by Maxwell (1980 a, b) in the Malay Peninsula (= Peninsular Malaysia) and by Bremer (1982 b) in Borneo. Many of the Malayan and Bornean species occur also in Java and Sumatra and the present paper is intended to bring the taxonomy of *Memecylon* from these areas up to date.

In a few cases the treatments by Maxwell and Bremer differ. *M. globosum* Bakh. f. is reduced by Bremer to a synonym of *M. durum* Cogn. and *M. beccarianum* Cogn. is reduced to that of *M. acuminatissimum* Bl. The latter species is considered by Bremer distinct from *M. oleifolium* Bl. Maxwell considers *M. ovatum* Sm. a variety of *M. edule* Roxb., whereas Bremer keeps them separate. The species commonly known as *Memecylon oligoneurum* Bl. has recently been transferred by Bremer (1982 a) to a separate genus, *Lijndenia,* and named *L. laurina* Zoll. & Mor. It differs from *Memecylon* e.g. by its 3-nerved leaves. *Memecylon oligoneurum* is *Lijndenia laurina* and therefore excluded from the list.

The *Flora of Java* by Backer and Bakhuizen f. (1963) is recommended for identification of *Memecylon* species from that area. Some of the species have been reduced to synonymy by Maxwell and the following name changes should thus be noted: *M. ambiguum* Bl. = *M. oleifolium* Bl., *M. depokkense* Bakh. f. = *M. fruticosum* King, *M. floribundum* Bl. = *M. coeruleum* Jack, *M. myrsinoides* Bl. = *M. lilacinum* Zoll. & Mor., and *M. pseudo-nigrescens* Bl. = *M. lilacinum* Zoll. & Mor. Furthermore, it should also be noted that not only *M. edule* Roxb. var. *ovatum* (Sm.) C.B. Cl. (here considered a separate species) but also *M. edule s. str.* occur in Java.

Many species are common to Sumatra and Malaya and Maxwell's revision is recommended for their identification for both areas. There are also four species described from Sumatra but not reported for Malaya and thus not included in Maxwell's revision. These are *M. laruei* Merr., *M. ochroleucum* Bakh. f., *M. subcordifolium* Bakh. f., and *M. sumatrense* Bakh. f. and they are commented upon below.

In the list of species below, the distribution is indicated immediately after each name by the letters B, J, M and S, representing Borneo, Java, Malaya and Sumatra, respectively. Synonyms are given in those cases where there are differences between the *Flora of Java* on the one hand and Maxwell's and Bremer's revisions on the other. The others, from earlier literature, including the extensive work by Bakhuizen f. (1943), have been included in the latter two treatments. Thus all *Memecylon* taxa (except *M. oligoneurum* Bl. and its synonyms) hitherto described or reported from the four areas are now referable to the 43 species included in the list. Of these there are 27, 12, 29 and 18 species recorded from each of the four areas Borneo, Java, Malaya and Sumatra, respectively.

List of Memecylon Species from Borneo, Java, Malaya and Sumatra

M. acuminatissimum Bl. (*M. beccarianum* Cogn.) – B M S

M. acuminatissimum was described from Sumatra and Maxwell united it with *M. oleifolium* but kept separate *M. beccarianum,* described from Borneo. Bremer, however, retained *M. acuminatissimum* and *M. oleifolium* as separate species, and reduced *M. beccarianum* to a synonym of *M. acuminatissimum.*

M. acuminatum Sm. – M

M. amplexicaule Roxb. – B M

M. argenteum Bremer – B

M. borneense Merr. – B

M. calyptratum Bremer – B

M. campanulatum C.B. Cl. – B M S

M. cantleyi Ridl. – B M S

M. cinereum King – M

M. coeruleum Jack (*M. floribundum* Bl.) – J M S

M. confertiflorum Cogn. – B

M. corticosum Ridl. – B M

M. dichotomum C. B. Cl. – M

M. durum Cogn. (*M. globosum* Bakh. f.) – B M

M. edule Roxb. – B J M S

M. excelsum Bl. – B J M S

M. floridum Ridl. – B M

M. fruticosum King (*M. depokkense* Bakh. f.) – B J M S

M. garcinioides Bl. – B J M S

M. gibbosum Bakh. f. – J

This species was described because of its basally and unilaterally gibbous fruits. Such asymmetric fruits are known to occur in several species of *Memecylon,* however. In other characters *M. gibbosum* is similar to *M. edule.* Its specific status needs further investigation.

M. hullettii King – M

M. intermedium Bl. – B J M S

M. kunstleri King – M

M. lancifolium Ridl. – M
This is an insufficiently known species. It seems to be related to *M. acuminatissimum* or *M. oleifolium.*

M. laruei Merr. – S
This characteristic species endemic to Sumatra is illustrated in Fig. 1.

M. lilacinum Zoll. & Mor. (*M. myrsinoides* Bl., *M. pseudo-nigrescens* Bl.) – B J M S
There are two varieties placed as unknown by Bakhuizen f. (1943 p. 367), *M. myrsinoides* var. *latifolia* Koord. & Val. (*M. "intermedium"* var. *latifolia sphalm.*) and *M. myrsinoides* var. *subquadrialata* Miq. (*M. myrsinoides* var. *"quadrialata" sphalm.*) Both belong under *M. lilacinum.* They are characterized by broad leaves and quadrangular branchlets, respectively, but this is a normal variation within this species and taxonomic recognition is thus necessary.

M. longifolium Cogn. – B

M. malaccense (C.B. Cl.) Ridl. – M

M. megacarpum Furtado – B M

M. minutiflorum Miq. – B M S

M. monchyanum Backer – J
This species, illustrated in Fig. 1, is endemic to Java.

M. ochroleucum Bakh. f. – S
This is an insufficiently known species. It is characterized by its leaves which dry pale yellowish brown to green. The inflorescences have well developed peduncles.

M. oleifolium Bl. (*M. ambiguum* Bl.) – B J M S
M. horsfieldii Miq., described from Sumatra and listed as unknown by Bakhuizen f. (1943 p. 367), is here reported as a synonym. The type collected by Horsfield is at Utrecht.

M. ovatum Sm. (*M. edule* Roxb. var. *ovatum* (Sm.) C.B. Cl.) – B J M S

M. paniculatum Jack – B J M S

M. pauciflorum Bl. – M

M. pergamentaceum Cogn. – B

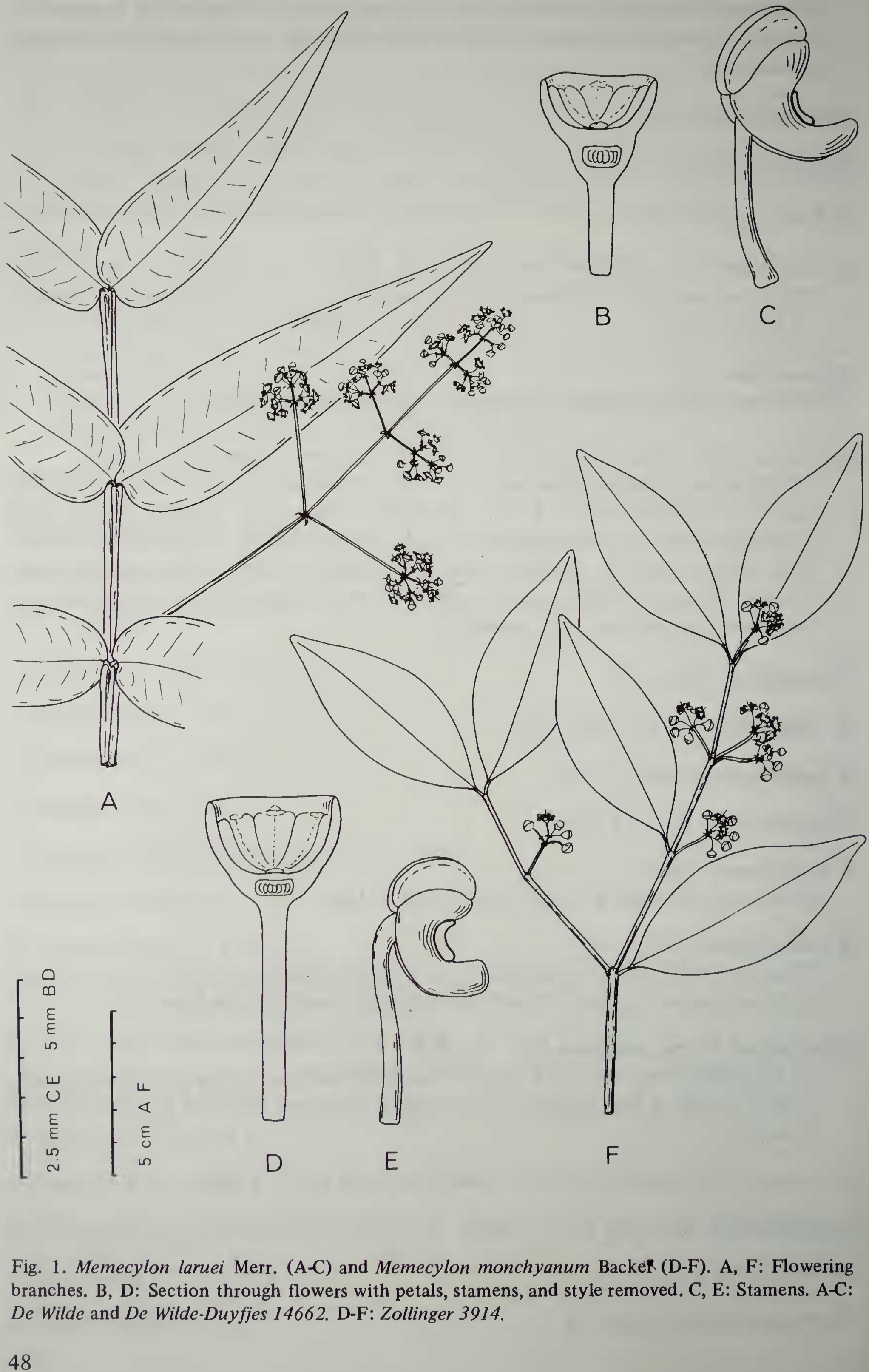

Fig. 1. *Memecylon laruei* Merr. (A-C) and *Memecylon monchyanum* Backer (D-F). A, F: Flowering branches. B, D: Section through flowers with petals, stamens, and style removed. C, E: Stamens. A-C: *De Wilde* and *De Wilde-Duyfjes 14662*. D-F: *Zollinger 3914*.

M. pubescens (C.B. Cl.) King – B M

M. ruptile Bremer – B

M. scolopacinum Ridl. – B

M. subcordifolium Bakh. f. – S
This species is similar to *M. paniculatum* but differs by its terete branchlets.

M. sumatrense Bakh. f. – S
This species is clearly related to *M. pubescens* but differs in its longer petioles.

M. wallichii Ridl. – M

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